(c) No, Sir.

Vacancies of Railway Supervisors

1485. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several posts of Supervisors/Chief Supervisors are lying vacant in all the railway zones;

(b) if so, division-wise details thereof;

(c) whether Ministry propose to fill up these vacant posts in these Divisions; and

(d) if so, by when these posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) The information is being colllected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Corruption in Railways

1486. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways had called a meeting of railway General Managers recently and stressed the need to maintain safety, plugging revenue leakages and meeting financial targets;

(b) if so, the details of the strategy chalked out to meet various challenges before the Railways;

(c) whether corruption in Railways is primarily responsible for various drawbacks; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to root out corruption in the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Strategy to meet various challenges faced by the Railway is not formulated in a single meeting with General Managers. During the meeting stress was laid on innovative marketing, expenditure control, rightsizing, plugging revenue leakage, regular Safety Audits and clearing arrears of asset renewals.

(c) and (d) Although Corruption on Railways is not primarily responsible for various drawbacks, a number of steps have been taken by the Government to root out corruption in Railways. These steps include frequent checks in areas of public/user interface and

mass contact areas, random checks in auctions and scrap disposal, random scrutiny of major contracts and ongoing works etc. to detect and curb irregularities/malpractices. While staff is educated to inculcate awareness about proper procedures, strict disciplinary action is also taken against staff involved in irregularities.

Cancellation of HDC contract for flat wagons

1487. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Members of Parliament have represented to Government to cancel the multi-crore contract for delivering bogies container flat-wagons given to the allegedly black listed firm HDC and divert it to three West Bengal based public sector units; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some representations were received from Members of Parliament and others in this regard. Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR), a PSU under Ministry of Railways has placed an order for 1320 Container Flat Wagons on M/s. Hindustan Engineering Industries (M/s. HEI) which was earlier known as Hindustan Development Corporation (HDC), Kolkata on 1.5.2001. M/s. HDC has been issued a show cause notice on 3.7.2001 by Ministry of Railways for using cheaper mild steel in place of specified corten steel which was a free supply item by Railways. The company has to reply to the notice within 30 days.

Losses of Konkan Railway

1488. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Konkan Railway has been able to break even financially;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) when the Railways introduce more trains on this route, since only 30 percent of passengers are able to get reservation; and

(d) whether the losses are on account of passenger trains; if so, why the Railways don't increase the fares?